

Attorney Docket No. 06816-035003
Application No. 09/825,875
Amendment dated November 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 6, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:

forming a plurality of quantum well elements, each element having a barrier layer and well layer with each well layer being formed between two barrier layers, each well layer having a well bottom, and a well top; and

supporting bound energy levels within each said well layer, with an excited bound energy level being at a level that is close to resonant with said well top.

3. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2, wherein said excited bound energy level is within 5 percent of an edge defining said well top.

4. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2, wherein said forming comprises forming said well layer from a first material and forming said barrier layer from a second material different from said first material.

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5. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 4, wherein said supporting comprises controlling properties and quantities of said first and second materials to support said bound energy level being close to resonant with said well top.

6. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 4, wherein said first and second materials include GaAs, and AlxGal-xAs.

7. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, further comprising controlling properties and quantities of said GaAs and said AlxGal-xAs to obtain said bound energy level.

8. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, further comprising increasing a well depth by increasing a thickness of GaAs, to increase a separation between a ground state and an excited state.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, wherein said GaAs well layers are 45 angstroms thick, and said AlxGal-xAs barrier layers are 500 angstroms thick.

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10. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 9, wherein x , representing a mole fraction of Al in said $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$, is substantially 0.29.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2, wherein said forming comprises forming a well layer of GaAs between barrier layers of $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 11, further comprising an initial step of forming a semi insulating GaAs substrate, said forming comprising forming quantum well elements on said substrate.

13. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 12, further comprising forming an electrical contact layer on said substrate.

14. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 13, wherein said electrical contact layer is formed between said semi insulating substrate, and said plurality of quantum well elements.

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15. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 13, further comprising a second contact layer, formed over the plurality of quantum well elements.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 15, further comprising doping the contact layer with N type charge carriers.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2, further comprising adjusting an angle of incidence of radiation that is input into said plurality of quantum well elements.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 17, wherein said adjusting comprises a forming a structure on top of said quantum well elements that changes an angle of incident radiation.

19. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 18, wherein said adjusting comprises forming a structure including a polished facet at a specified angle on top of said quantum well elements.

20. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 18, wherein said structure includes a randomly roughened reflecting surface.

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21. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 17, further comprising forming an electrical contact layer over said quantum well elements, and wherein said adjusting comprises forming a structure on said electrical contact layer.

22. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 21, wherein said structure includes a randomly reflecting structure.

23. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 22, wherein said randomly reflecting structure is formed of a highly reflective material.

24. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, wherein said GaAs layers are between 40 and 70 angstroms thick, and said Al_xGa_{1-x}As layers are between 500 and 600 angstroms thick.

25. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 4, wherein said first material is between 40 and 70 angstroms thick, and said second material is between 500 and 600 angstroms thick.

26. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 4, wherein said supporting comprises supporting an excited bound energy state that is within 2 percent of said well top.

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27. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, further comprising a second barrier layer, of a different material than said barrier layer, between adjacent barrier layers.

28. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:
forming a plurality of quantum well elements, each quantum well element including a well portion of a first specified material, surrounded by first and second barrier layers formed of at least one second specified material, each well layer including a well bottom and a well top, said forming comprising adjusting characteristics of said first and second specified materials, to support bound energy levels with an excited bound energy state that is close to being resonant with said well top; and

adjusting a direction of input radiation to said plurality of quantum well elements, to adjust an electric field polarization of said input radiation, relative to a quantum well growth axis.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, further comprising forming electrical contacts above and below said plurality of quantum well elements.

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30. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, wherein said adjusting comprises reflecting said input radiation at a specified angle relative to said growth axis.

31. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 30, wherein said specified angle is 45 degrees.

32. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein said adjusting comprises forming a randomly roughened surface that produces light at a plurality of different angles relative to said growth axis.

33. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 32, wherein said randomly roughened surface is formed on a structure over said plurality of quantum well elements.

34. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 32, wherein said randomly roughened surface is formed on one of said electrical contacts.

35. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 32, wherein said randomly roughened surface is formed of gold.

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36. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, further comprising forming a plurality of image sensor elements, and associating each of said image sensor elements with a plurality of said quantum well elements.

37. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 36, wherein said forming comprises forming said plurality of image sensor elements into a two-dimensional array.

38. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 37, wherein said forming a plurality of quantum well elements comprises forming a plurality of quantum well elements into a stack, and forming a plurality of electrical contact layers, and an element to adjust a direction of said input radiation, and wherein each of said quantum well stacks is associated with one of said plurality of image sensors.

39. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 38 further comprising spatially aligning said quantum well stacks with said image sensors, and using an indium bump to attach said quantum well stacks to said image sensors.

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40. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, wherein said adjusting comprises adjusting said direction of input radiation using a technique which is substantially wavelength independent.

41. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising:
a plurality of quantum well elements, each with a well layer having a well bottom, a well top, and bound energy states within said well, and first and second barrier layers surrounding said well layer, said well layers being formed of materials that cause a bound energy state to be resonant with said well top, at a level that allows an electron in said well to escape to an electron continuum area of higher energy state electrons, without tunneling through material forming said barrier layers.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 41, further comprising an element that adjusts a direction of input radiation, relative to said quantum well elements.

44. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 43, further comprising electrical contact layers, including a first

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electrical contact layer on a first side of said quantum well elements, and a second electrical contact layer on a second side of said quantum well elements.

45. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 44, wherein said element that adjusts direction of input radiation is formed as part of one of said electrical contact layers.

46. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 44, further comprising a plurality of image sensors, arranged in an array.

47. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 46, wherein said plurality of quantum well elements are arranged into a plurality of quantum well stacks, each quantum well stack including a plurality of periods, each period comprising a well layer and first and second barrier layers, and each quantum well stacks associated with one of said image sensors.

48. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 47, wherein each of said quantum well structures are spatially aligned with one of said image sensors.

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49. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 44, further comprising a plurality of bumps, connecting between said quantum well stacks and said image sensors.

50. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 46, wherein said image sensors are CMOS image sensors.

51. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 41, further comprising a plurality of image sensors, arranged in an array, and associated with said plurality of quantum well elements.

52. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 51, wherein said plurality of quantum well elements are arranged into a plurality of quantum well stacks, and each said quantum well stack including a plurality of periods, and each of said periods comprising a well layer and first and second barrier layers, each of said quantum well stacks associated with one of said image sensors.

53. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 52, wherein said quantum well stacks are respectively spatially aligned with said array of image sensors.

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54. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 48, wherein each of said image sensors has a peak sensitivity in the infrared region.

55. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 54, wherein said well layer is formed of GaAs.

56. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device, comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor image sensors, arranged on a substrate in an array;

a plurality of quantum well stacks, respectively associated with said plurality of semiconductor image sensors, each said stack comprising a plurality of quantum well structures, each said quantum well structure having a barrier layer of a first semiconductor material, and a well layer of a second semiconductor material, said first and second semiconductor materials defining a band gap there between, each well layer of each quantum well structure coupled between two of said barrier layers, and each well layer having a well bottom and a well top, and each well supporting an unexcited energy state within said well, and a bound excited energy state for photo carriers, each

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of said well layers being selected such that the bound excited energy state is substantially resonant with a top portion of the well.

57. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 56, wherein said semiconductor image sensors have peak sensitivity in the infrared range.

58. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 56, further comprising a radiation direction adjusting element that adjusts a direction of input radiation relative to said quantum well stacks.

59. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 58, wherein said radiation directing adjusting element includes a plurality of random reflectors.

60. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 59, wherein said random reflectors are formed of gold.

61. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 56, further comprising a plurality of electrical contacts, associated with said semiconductor.

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62. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 61, further comprising a plurality of random reflectors, operating to adjust a direction of input radiation.

63. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 61, wherein said random reflectors are formed on one of said electrical contacts.

64. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 56, wherein there are 50 of said quantum well structures in each of said quantum well stacks.

65. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 57, wherein said well layers are formed of GaAs, and said barrier layers are formed of $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$.

66. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 54, wherein said image sensors have a peak reception at 8.5 microns.

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67. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 56, wherein said quantum well is formed of AlyGa1-yAs, and said barrier layer is formed of AlzGa1-zAs.

68. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:
forming a plurality of quantum well stacks on a substrate,
each of said quantum well stacks including a plurality of
quantum well elements, each quantum well elements having a
barrier layer and a well layer, with each well layer being
formed between two adjacent barrier layers, each well layer
having a well bottom and a well top; and
treating an open surface of said substrate with a material
that reduces a parasitic surface induced leakage in the quantum
well stacks.

69. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 68, wherein said
material includes an inorganic sulfide.

70. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 68, wherein said
forming includes supporting bound energy levels within each said
well layer, with an unexcited bound energy level being a level
that is close to resonance with said well top.

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71. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device,
comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor image sensors, arranged on a
substrate in an array;

a plurality of quantum well stacks, respectively associated
with said plurality of semiconductor image sensors, each said
stack comprising a plurality of quantum well structures, each
said quantum well structure having a barrier layer of a first
semiconductor material that is greater than 300 microns in
width, and a well layer of a second semiconductor material, said
first and second semiconductor materials defining a band gap
therebetween, each well layer of each quantum well structure
coupled between two of said barrier layers, and each well layer
having a well bottom and a well top, wherein each well
supporting an unexcited energy state within said well, and a
bound excited energy state for photo carriers, each of said well
layers being selected such that the bound excited energy state
is resonant with a top portion of the well.

72. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim
71, wherein said barrier layer is greater than 500 microns in
width.

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73. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, wherein said semiconductor image sensors have a peak which is within the infrared range.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 74, wherein said semiconductor image sensors have a reception peak which is substantially at 8.5 microns.

76. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, wherein said quantum well stacks each include at least 50 quantum well structures.

77. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, wherein said semiconductor image sensors are image sensors.

78. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, wherein each of said quantum well stacks is spatially aligned with each of said image sensors.

79. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, further comprising a radiation direction adjusting element

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that adjust a direction of input radiation relative to said quantum well stacks.

80. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 79, wherein said radiation adjusting element includes a plurality of random reflectors.

81. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 80, wherein said random reflectors are formed of gold.

82. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 80, wherein said random reflectors are formed of silver.

83. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device as in claim 71, wherein said quantum well structures are formed of GaAs, and said barrier layers are formed of $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$.

84. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a semiconductor, comprising:

obtaining a GaAs substrate;

first forming a barrier layer of at least 300 angstroms thick, of a barrier layer material, on said substrate;

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second forming a well layer of a different material than said barrier layer material, on said barrier layer, said well layer being thinner than said barrier layer;

repeating said first forming and said second forming to form a desired number of quantum well structures; and

forming a radiation adjusting element over said quantum well structures, which adjust a characteristic of incoming radiation.

85. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 84, wherein said forming a radiation adjusting element comprises forming a light changing element which includes a $1/4$ phase shifting element.

86. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 84, wherein said forming a radiation adjusting element comprises forming a plurality of random reflectors.

87. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 84, further comprising an image sensor element, associated with said semiconductor.

88. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 87, wherein there are plurality of said quantum well structures forming a

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plurality of stacks, and a plurality of image sensor elements,
respectively associated with said stacks.

89. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 88, further
comprising an indium bump, coupling said quantum well structures
to said image sensors.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3A and 4 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3A and 4.